

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 8, 14, 18, 24 and 30 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent no. 6,332,024 of Inoue et al. ("Inoue"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. The amendments to the claims are made only to place the claims in what Applicant considers to be better form. The amendments are not made in response to the rejections or to comply with any statutory requirement of patentability, since no such amendments are believed to be necessary.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a hand-held mobile device, the method comprising:
 - displaying a softkey indicator on a display of the hand-held mobile device, the softkey indicator indicating a corresponding softkey action;
 - displaying an input field on the display while displaying the softkey indicator, the input field **for displaying characters input by a user in response to the user using an input device of the hand-held mobile device;**
 - detecting activation of the input field; and
 - in response to activation of the input field,** automatically selecting a softkey action previously associated with the input field **and automatically changing the softkey indicator to indicate the selected softkey action.**(Emphasis added).

Inoue does not disclose or suggest such a method. In particular, Inoue does not disclose or suggest, in response to activation of an input field for displaying characters input by a user in response to the user using an input device of the hand-held mobile

device, automatically selecting a softkey action previously associated with the input field and automatically changing a softkey indicator to indicate the selected softkey action.

The Examiner cites Inoue at col. 9, lines 45-58 and also Figs. 3, 4B, and col. 6, lines 4-54. However, these sections of text and Figures do not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned claim feature, nor is this feature found elsewhere in Inoue. Referring first to col. 9, lines 45-58, Inoue describes the effects of a user pressing the "Call" softkey or the "Clear" softkey while in the directory processing mode B3. This mode is illustrated in Figure 5D. In this mode, a selected name and telephone number are displayed on the LCD display screen 2 (Fig. 5D; col. 9, lines 39-41). However, there is no disclosure in Inoue of an input field for displaying characters input by a user in response to the user using an input device of the hand-held mobile device in the directory processing mode B3. Note that an example of this type of input field is described in Applicant's specification as element 404, illustrated in Applicant's Figures 4A through 4B.) The displayed name and telephone number in Figure 5D are not input fields. Thus, there is clearly no disclosure or suggestion of the above-mentioned claim feature in this section of Inoue.

The Examiner also cites Inoue's Figure 4B as showing the input field of claim 1. However, Figure 4B merely shows a displayed list of names and telephone numbers representing telephone calls recently received by the mobile telephone (one name and telephone number are shown as selected). The displayed names and telephone numbers are not input fields for displaying characters input by a user in response to the

user using an input device of the hand-held mobile device. Again, an example of such an input field is described in Applicant's specification as element 404, illustrated in Applicant's Figures 4A through 4B.

Inoue does disclose an input field of this type in, for example, Figures 6D and 6E (the field containing tabs T_{c3} and T_{c4}). However, in the operational modes represented in those Figures, there is no suggestion that merely activating the input field (for example, starting to type a telephone number into the field) causes an automatic change in an associated softkey, in contrast with claim 1.

There is simply no disclosure or suggestion in Inoue of a method which includes, in response to activation of an input field for displaying characters input by a user in response to the user using an input device of the hand-held mobile device, automatically selecting a softkey action previously associated with the input field and automatically changing a softkey indicator to indicate the selected softkey action. Therefore, claim 1 and all claims which depend on it are patentable over the cited art.

Each of the other independent claims also recites a feature similar to that discussed above with respect to claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable over the cited art for similar reasons, along with its dependent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicants' silence regarding any dependent

claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

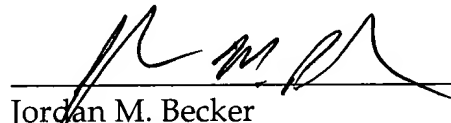
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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